

# STERLING FINANCIAL TRUST COMPANY

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## FAX COVER SHEET

To: <i>Atty General John Ashcroft Pt</i>	
To Fax Number: <i>1-202-307-1454</i>	Telephone Number:
From: <i>Rose Diehl</i>	
From Fax Number: <i>(717) 633-4439</i>	Telephone Number: <i>(717) 637-2201</i>
Number of Pages (including cover sheet):	
Date: <i>1-21-02</i>	Time:

**471 Valley View Drive**  
**Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331**

January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the recent settlement in the Microsoft case. First and foremost, this case has dragged on for far too long. Second, the settlement was reached after a long series of negotiations with neutral mediators. This settlement indeed serves the public interest; I don't see how there can be any dispute on that, except from their competitors who won't take anything less than a break-up. Microsoft has created superior products and set the standard for the entire IT industry, they should not be punished for that.

So much of my personal marketability is due to my extensive knowledge of the Microsoft programs that are used in so many businesses. I work in investment banking and nearly all of the software we use is Windows compatible and the software used for general office procedures is all Microsoft as well. Should I have to learn new programs, a large portion of my employable skills would be diminished. Additionally, everything on my home PC is run by Microsoft products. I am not forced to use Microsoft, but glad to. Another part of the settlement involves a great deal of information sharing, with Microsoft practically giving away their coding and interface technology. If that isn't beyond fair, I don't know what else their competitors could possibly expect.

I ask that you please do your part in upholding the current settlement. I'm sure that most Congressional offices run with Microsoft products and would be highly upset if they had to change. This issue spans the entire country, Republicans and Democrats alike. If politicians could agree to settle this issue, our economy and IT industry could move forward.

Sincerely,



Rose Diehl

cc: Senator Rick Santorum